

## New regional climate plan shows local action is key to reducing emissions

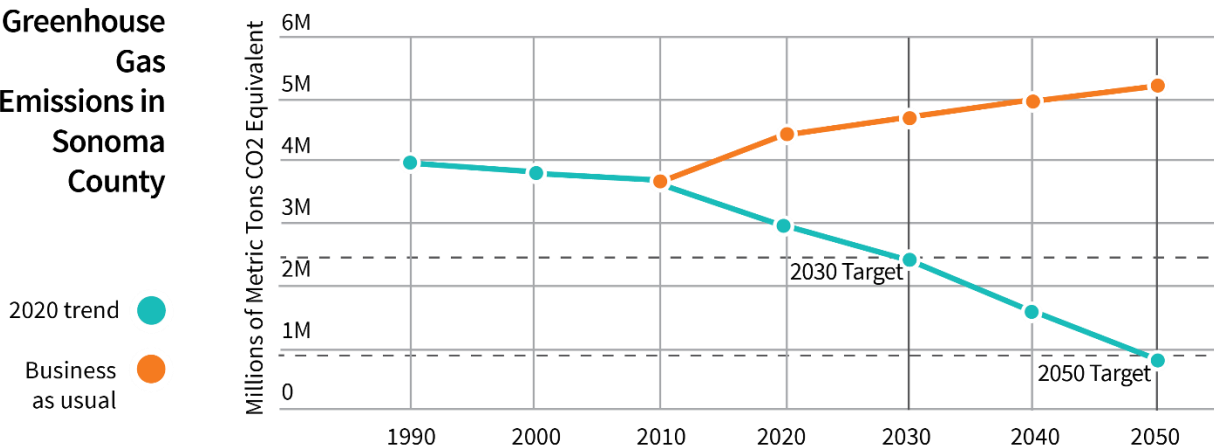
Roadmap to meet climate goals is tailored for each community in Sonoma County

SANTA ROSA, CA – The newly released Climate Action 2020 and Beyond is a regional climate action plan that includes a set of proven actions to fight climate change for each community in Sonoma County. Implementing these measures, along with regional and statewide actions, will enable us to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The regional climate action plan highlights a number of benefits that will improve local communities once the measures are put in place. Following the plan's recent adoption by the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), local communities will now have a chance to adopt the plan along with specific implementation measures. The final plan is available online:

<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Sonoma County



### Many benefits of climate action

Nearly 90% of greenhouse gas emissions in Sonoma County come from energy used for transportation and buildings. While taking action to reduce these emissions will require effort, it could mean significant savings for residents who currently buy gas for solo car commutes and individuals, or companies, paying to keep inefficient buildings comfortable.

RCPA Chair David Rabbitt voted to adopt the plan, saying “I’m proud that each local government in Sonoma County is showing the world how to take real steps that protect our climate while boosting our economy.”

There are many co-benefits to taking climate action, including energy savings, cleaner air, improved public health, more jobs, reduced water consumption and increased equity for people of all backgrounds. Sonoma County communities will also become more resilient to impacts from climate change as measures in the plan are put into action.

RCPA Director Sarah Gurney notes that, “It’s important to cut our reliance on fossil fuels. In Sebastopol we’re already showing how using more renewable energy keeps our money invested locally.”

### **Collaboration and community input**

The release of the final plan follows two years of detailed work between local entities to set goals and identify the right measures to match each community. The draft plan was presented to elected representatives of each community and the final draft reflects a wide range of input received during the draft process.

RCPA Vice Chair Carol Russell reflects on her experience by saying, “We’re proud that Cloverdale has been a part of this groundbreaking effort and our city staff has benefitted from the regional teamwork that made this plan possible.”

### **Plan heads back to local communities for adoption**

Following on the initial round of review, local jurisdictions will get a chance to adopt the plan over the coming months. Measures would be adopted on a voluntary basis, but we will only reach our goal for Sonoma County if everyone plays a part. A new tracking tool will be released shortly to track progress on meeting goals across the county.

RCPA Director Laurie Gallian is expecting to have a vote on adoption in the City of Sonoma soon, saying “We’re looking forward to doing our part and show how Sonoma is planning for of a sustainable future where everyone benefits.”

### **Follow the plan online and through social media**

Dates for meetings to adopt the plan locally will be posted on [rcpa.ca.gov/ca2020](https://rcpa.ca.gov/ca2020) as they become available. You can also follow progress on the plan at [twitter.com/SonomaRCPA](https://twitter.com/SonomaRCPA) and [facebook.com/SonomaRCPA/](https://facebook.com/SonomaRCPA/).

The project was funded by a grant awarded by the Strategic Growth Council.

The Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, RCPA, was formed in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts among Sonoma County’s nine cities, the County and multiple agencies. The RCPA fosters collaboration, helps to set goals, pools resources, formalizes partnerships, and works across silos. The RCPA aims to create local solutions to complement State, federal, and private sector actions – all showing that a prosperous future with lower emissions is possible.

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